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Deaderick, W. H.

A sanitary survey of Hoboken, New Jersey

New Jersey

[1913]

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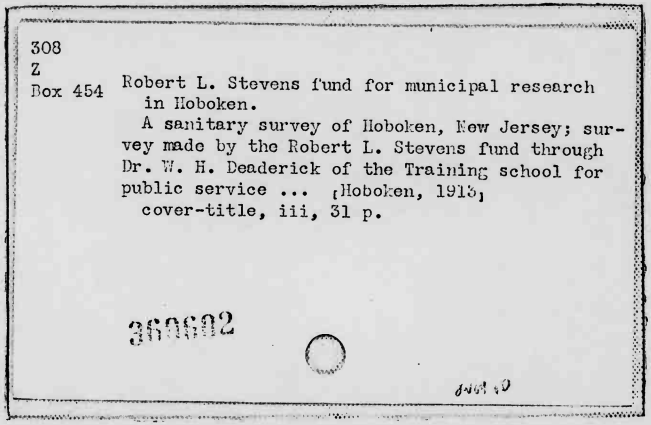
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A SANITARY SURVEY OF HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

Survey made by the Robert L. Stevens Fund through Dr. W. H. Deaderick of the Training School for Public Service with credentials of the Hoboken board of health

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS

Dr. Joseph F. Stack, President of Board
Solomon Lubash, Treasurer
Dr. John J. Rudolph
J. Henry Timken
Morris Weisbart

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Published by the

ROBERT L. STEVENS FUND
for
MUNICIPAL RESEARCH IN HOBOKEN

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MAYOR'S OFFICE
City Hall

Hoboken, N. J.,
October 27, 1913

Robert L. Stevens Fund for Municipal Research in Hoboken
Hudson Trust Building,
25 Newark Street,
Hoboken, N. J.

Sirs:

The value of this report is beyond the reckoning of dollars and cents. It is a cold, impartial judgment of our health department by a disinterested trained person. It gives us a chance to see conditions as they ought to be against the background of conditions as they are in health.

The responsibility for the shortcomings of our health department can be laid at no one man's door. The system is one of slow development from a small beginning.

This report is presented to the citizens of Hoboken not in the spirit of criticism but as information in the hope that each may pursue and lend his help in the betterment of health conditions of our city.

In this study we are indebted to Mrs. R. L. Stevens and the Fund for Municipal Research in Hoboken which she established.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN COOKE,
Mayor.

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City Hall

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October 27, 1913

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Very truly yours,

MARTIN COOKE,
Mayor.

Office of the President

BOARD OF HEALTH COMMISSIONERS

City Hall, Hoboken, N. J.,
October 28, 1913

R. L. Stevens Fund for Municipal Research,
Hoboken, N. J.

Sirs:

The conditions uncovered in our health department by this report are very bad. The task which confronts this city cannot be taken lightly.

This survey was made by the Robert L. Stevens Fund upon invitation from this board and gives me no small amount of satisfaction that it is now complete and the report given to the public.

It is a staggering blow to find that of the $2,468,152.45 spent by the city of Hoboken in 1912 only $4,516.20 or .0018% was spent on health.

The conditions under which the health department labors are adverse as to organization and funds, and I concur with the recommendations of this report and hope to see in the near future an up-to-date health department such as the city owes the taxpayers.

Very truly yours,

J. F. X. STACK,
President.

THE ROBERT L. STEVENS FUND FOR MUNICIPAL RESEARCH IN HOBOKEN

Telephone, Hoboken 1634.

Hudson Trust Building,
25 Newark Street,
Hoboken, N. J.,
October 29, 1913

To the President,
Board of Commissioners of Health and Vital Statistics,
City Hall,
Hoboken, N. J.

Dear Sir:

I respectfully submit herewith the report of the health survey of the city of Hoboken, made by Dr. William H. Deadrick.

This survey could never have been made but for the hearty cooperation of your honorable mayor, the clerk and other officials of your department and the president of the board of health, who willingly gave their time and advice in the actual survey and in the preparation of this report.

The Robert L. Stevens Fund takes this opportunity to thank the men who did the work and to express a hope that their work will not be in vain.

There is now in preparation a sanitary code for the city of Hoboken which, when completed, will also be presented to the city of Hoboken by the Robert L. Stevens Fund, and will be a model around which to reorganize the health department of this city.

Very respectfully,

G. W. BEAVERS, JR.,
Secretary.

PLAN

I—Significant facts revealed by the survey

II—Details of the survey
- A—Organization of the board of health
- B—Complaints
- C—Food inspection
- D—Child hygiene
- E—Tenement houses
- F—Contagious and communicable diseases
- G—Hospitals and laboratories
- H—Water supply
- I —Sewerage
- J —Street cleaning
- K—Publicity
- L—Vital statistics

III—Recommendations

I

SIGNIFICANT FACTS REVEALED BY THE SURVEY

1—Under the present organization adequate supervision of sanitary matters is impossible
- a—The clerk and the assistant health inspector are the only all-time employees for health administration
- b—The only control exerted by the board of health over employees is through insufficient reports, consequently
- c—There is no efficient check upon the quantity or quality of work performed by employees

2—The health inspectors were complainants in only 10.4% of the complaints recorded
- a—The health inspector investigated only 10% of the complaints which were investigated during 1912
- b—The assistant health inspector, in addition to keeping the contagious disease records and relieving the clerk of his duties for lunch hour each day investigated 67% of the complaints

3—There is scarcely any variety of food that is not freely exposed to dust and dirt
- a—The inspection of milk is totally inadequate

b—Many of Hoboken's food products purveyors are in wholly unsuitable places for the preparation or sale of food for human consumption

4—Hoboken has already a serious tenement house problem

5—There are no local laboratory facilities

6—The sewer system is seriously defective in condition and in extent
a—Filthy cesspools and the discharge of sewage upon the surface of the ground is permitted

7—The cleaning of the streets and the removal of garbage do not come up to sanitary standards
a—The streets and sidewalks are unclean
b—There are too few refuse cans
c—They are not emptied sufficiently often
d—Garbage is dumped within the city in close proximity to buildings
e—Public cooperation in keeping the streets free from rubbish is not enlisted

8—The board of health uses no publicity methods whatever to keep the public informed as to their sanitary problems and the solutions

9—The birth and death records of Hoboken are very nearly complete reports

II

DETAILS OF THE SURVEY

A—Organization of the Board of Health

The board of health of Hoboken numbers five. The only qualification necessary for a member is that he be a citizen, a resident of the city and take an oath. Three of the present board are physicians. One is appointed by the mayor each year and holds office for a term of four years. They receive no compensation

The clerk and registrar is employed by the board of health. He keeps the vital statistics records and is secretary to the board of health. He reports deaths, marriages and births

monthly to the secretary of the state board of health. He renders an annual financial report to the local board of health and an annual report of vital statistics to the local board. The books and vouchers of the clerk are examined by the treasurer of the board, the finance committee of the board and the comptroller of the city. It is his duty to issue the certificates and permits required by law. He receives $900 per annum and in addition thereto the fees derived from the state board of health and from marriage licenses

The health inspector is a policeman detailed to the board of health. He is paid $1,000 a year by the police department and $200 by the board of health

The assistant health inspector is appointed by the board of health at an annual salary of $1,200. He is required to render **weekly** reports of contagious diseases to the secretary of the state board of health. He can be removed from office only upon proven charges

The pound-keeper is appointed by the board of health at an annual salary of $750

The plumbing inspector is appointed by the board of health at an annual salary of $900. He gives only a small part of his time to the health department. In 1912 he examined 28 building plans, issued permits for the installation of plumbing therein and made the necessary inspection in the buildings. The present arrangement is not advantageous to the city. For the services performed the annual salary of $900 is too large, and as a compensation for full time service it is too small. He is also supposed to make the necessary inspections of defective plumbing complaints. It would be more economical to place the inspection of building plans on a job basis and hire a competent plumber to make the inspection of the plumbing connections in the buildings in addition to other sanitary inspections of which the city is in great need

The attorney for the board of health is paid $600 a year for his services

The health warden is not a member of the board of health but appointed by them at an annual salary of $900. He has supervision of contagious diseases

A milk inspector and two city nurses were employed temporarily during the past summer to work under the supervision of the health warden

The appropriation to the board of health was in 1912, $3,516.20, or five cents per capita, in addition to which there were special appropriations of $500 for the milk inspector and $500 for two nurses. The other sources of income are from licenses, permits and fines

Comments

Under the present organization adequate supervision of health matters is impossible

The organization is without a chief executive

The clerk and assistant health inspector are the only employees required to give full time to the health administration

The only control exercised by the board of health over the health inspector, assistant health inspector and health warden is through monthly and annual reports. That over the clerk is only by finance committee of the board of health and comptroller of the city. That over the registrar is by monthly and annual reports and the state bureau of vital statistics at Trenton

There is no check upon the quantity and quality of work performed by the employees

The health inspector is not appointed by the board of health but by the police department

The health warden and clerk of the board are not members of the board and are independent of each other

B—Complaints

The record of complaints gives the following data: date, complainant, address, nature of complaint, defendant, address, by whom investigated, action taken and remarks

Complaints received are recorded directly in the record of complaints. The inspector's report is recorded under action taken and the date the nuisance is abated under remarks

Complaints are referred to the health inspector, the assistant health inspector, the pound keeper, the plumbing inspector or to the health warden

The following table compiled from the complaints of 1912 shows the number of complaints, by whom investigated, the number of cases in which the health inspectors were complainants and the number of summons served and arrests

Comments

The health inspector investigated only 10% of the complaints received during 1912

During four months of the year he investigated alone only three complaints. In July he made another inspection jointly with other members of the force

The assistant health inspector, in addition to keeping the contagious disease records, and relieving the clerk during the latter's lunch hour each day, attended to all fumigations and investigated 67% of the complaints

The health inspectors were complainants in only 52 of the 496 complaints recorded

The abatement of complaints seems to be prompt

There is no classification of complaints as to locality

The record of complaints is not indexed

1912	No. Complaints	Investigated by Health Inspector	Investigated by Asst. Health Insp.	Investigated by Pound Keeper	Investigated by Others	Investigator Not Recorded	Health Inspector as Complainant	Asst. Health Insp. as Complainant	Summons Served and Arrests	Joint Inspections
January	40	11	25	3	1	0	2	0	1	0
February	35	6	23	6	0	0	1	4	1	0
March	37	3	25	6	1	2	3	3	1	1
April	44	5	28	10	1	0	3	3	2	0
May	49	2	26	12	2	7	7	1	0	0
June	61	5	39	9	3	5	4	2	1	0
July	57	1	45	8	0	0	0	5	1	3
August	40	10	17	8	3	1	6	0	1	0
September	32	1	19	6	3	3	1	0	0	0
October	38	1	31	3	0	3	0	2	0	0
November	28	0	28	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
December	35	5	28	1	0	1	1	1	2	0
Total	496	50	334	72	14	22	29	23	10	4

C—Food Inspection

Milk Dealers

The first milk establishment inspected was one in a two story building in the western portion of the city. The stable accommodating the delivery horses is next to the bottling plant though there is no connection between the two except through the elevator door leading to the hay loft. The floors are of concrete and so guttered as to admit of thorough flushing. The walls and ceiling are of steel, which on account of the bad condition of the paint, is soon to be replaced with tile. The building is well lighted and ventilated and heated by steam. The **water supply** is from a private well 330 feet deep. Soiled bottles coming in are washed and scalded, then placed in crates which have been scrubbed. These crates have heavy wire bottoms which prevent accumulation of filth. The crates containing the bottles are placed on a continuous roller-way which leads to the steam sterilizer where crates and bottles are sterilized together. After sterilization the crate of bottles passes to the bottling machine where each bottle is filled and capped without removal or contact of hands. The paper caps are enclosed in sealed cartons, placed entire in the bottling machine as soon as opened. After bottling and capping, a paper hood is placed over the top of the bottle and held by a rubber band. This hood has printed thereon the day of the week on which the milk is bottled. The milk is pasteurized in three large tanks by heating to 140 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes. Each vat has an automatic register carrying a paper dial showing time and temperature traced in ink. From these tanks the milk passes by gravity to the cooling

vats, three in number. The entire process of sterilization of bottles and crates, pasteurization of milk and bottling is done by machinery

The plant has a well equipped laboratory managed by a competent milk examiner. The equipment consists of slate table, steam sterilizer, incubator, steam centrifuge, microscope, lactometer and apparatus for butter fat and acidity determination, etc. The laboratory man visits once every 30 days each of the dairies from which the company buys milk. A score card similar to that of New York is used. A higher price is paid for milk which reaches a certain score, an incentive for better equipment and methods

The output of this depot is 12,000 bottles daily besides canned milk which is supplied to the branch depots where it is dispensed automatically from tanks. The floor, walls, fixtures and machinery of this establishment were scrupulously clean.

A small milk store on Washington street was visited. Both bottles and "dipped" milk are sold. The cans are placed in an ice box having a circular lid over the top of each can which is surrounded by ice, the bottle being kept on this ice. A dipper is placed in each can. The proprietor had receipts from a railroad company showing that milk was received daily. An examination of the labels on the bottles showed only one bottle as old as 48 hours. The premises and fixtures appeared clean and well kept

A depot on Park avenue was called on. The milk is received from the main office in New York City. This depot is a one-story frame building. The office is in front and in the rear are the ice house, wagon shed and wash room, from which the stable is separated by a court. The ice house contained milk in bottles and in cans and an ample supply of ice. The floor of the wagon shed is of wood and very damp. In the wash room the cans were being scrubbed before being sent to New York. The stable, containing seventeen horses, has a floor of concrete. The bedding was fresh and clean, there was no accumulation of manure and the ventilation was good

The next milk store examined was on Washington street. Milk is sold here in bottles and in bulk. There was no ice in the milk box and the can, one with a wide mouth and the top off, was sitting on the floor behind the counter. It was necessary for the saleswoman to pass very near the can when approaching the counter. She explained that the ice box had been leaking for several days, hence the absence of ice. The floor and fixtures appeared to be clean.

A milk depot on Garden street was investigated. This depot receives its milk by rail. On the sidewalk in front was a large number of empty cans, some with tops off and entirely unprotected and not having been washed inside. In the store the floor and walls were not clean, though the counters were

well kept. The cans containing milk were in the ice box surrounded by ice. The ice box had a circular lid over each can and each can was supplied with a dipper. In the cellar a large number of cans of milk are stored. The ceiling of this cellar is not more than five feet high and the floor is very damp. A water faucet having no catch basin under it contributes to the dampness. The walls and ceiling of this cellar are very dirty and light and ventilation are very poor

A small store, entered by two steps down from the sidewalk was inspected. Here milk is sold in bottles and from the can. The can was on the floor behind the counter in a dark corner. Two dippers in the can whose handles projected, prevented the cover fitting down by an inch and a half. The saleswoman stated that she does not keep milk on the ice during the winter

The next place visited was a milk store where both bottled and canned milk is sold. The ice box was open and empty and two cans containing milk were on the floor. As in the store last mentioned the dipper handles prevented the complete closure of the cans. A row of empty bottles stood on the floor along the side of the room. A customer came in and purchased milk. The saleswoman picked up a dirty bottle from the floor, took it to the living room in the rear where she washed it, and held it over the can while pouring the milk which ran freely over the sides of the bottle and her fingers back into the can. The fixtures in this store were clean, the floor, however, was untidy

Hoboken employs during the summer months a milk inspector. While his records could not be found and he was an ex-tugboat captain without previous experience in milk inspection, it is said that he did good work in running out of the city several undesirable dealers

Meat Markets

The first meat market inspected is a large, airy and well lighted store on Bloomfield street. The floor was covered with fresh sawdust. The fixtures, utensils and tools were clean though the walls were smeared in places. The ice box is ample, the odor good, and the meat apparently fresh. There are three sinks in the rear of the store which were clean, but no soap or towels were to be seen. The water closet is in a booth in the basement, absolutely dark and without other ventilation than the door from the basement. The commode was clean. This fixture sometimes overflows with back water from the sewers

A meat market on Fourteenth street was visited. The walls were clean, the floor covered with fresh sawdust and the tools, utensils and fixtures well cared for excepting the meat block, which needed scraping. The refrigerator was ample and clean and the odor was good. A calf with its hide on

was hanging on the rack with other meat. In a room back of the store several children were playing; there were no sleeping apartments to be seen

A market on Washington street was called on. The walls of this place were dirty, especially behind the meat rack where blood was smeared. This store is well lighted though all ventilation was excluded. The floor was covered with clean sawdust and the fixtures, tools and utensils were clean. The back of the store is cut up into several small rooms which were used as store rooms for boxes, barrels, old fixtures and other rubbish. The water closet, which was in one of these little rooms, was absolutely dark and without outside ventilation. It contained an old wooden frame bath tub in which were thrown papers and an old bicycle. One commode was filthy. The sinks had apparently not been cleaned for some time and no soap or towels were visible. Meat scraps were kept in a wire basket on the floor. The salesman was observed to cough and whistle over the meat as he cut it

The next meat market investigated was also on Washington street. The salesroom was tidy in appearance, having clean floor, walls, fixtures and tools. In the ice box the meat hangers were caked with blood and bits of meat. The water closet was immediately behind the ice box but separated from it by a partition wall. The floor and walls of this place were very dirty and boxes were stored here. The seat and bowl of the commode contained fecal matter

One most unsanitary market inspected was on Adams street. The floor was littered with mud and meat scraps. The papered walls were filthy as were also the counter, meat block and other fixtures, utensils, tools and ice box. Toward the back of the room was a box on which poultry was killed and which was half filled with feathers. When a start was made for the back room the proprietress who had pretended not to understand English, said very plainly that this room was locked. This was found, however, not to be the case. In this room was a sink and set tub. On a board across the sink was a cut of beef which did not appear to be fresh. On a low box was a tripe which appeared to be old and was almost dry. The floor and walls of this room were filthy and the odor very bad. While the inspection was being made the proprietress locked the front door of the store

Bakeries

The first bakery investigated is on Washington street. The store with restaurant in the rear is on the first floor and the bakery is in the basement. In the store and restaurant the floors, walls and fixtures had a tidy appearance. In the bakery the supplies were stored in sacks and barrels of the bake room. It is necessary to use artificial light during the day. The proof box was caked with dough, flour and dirt, as

were the other fixtures, utensils and tools. The employees wore filthy aprons on which they were observed to wipe the dough knives. The dough was being mixed by hand. The bread and cakes were not wrapped or otherwise protected. There is one sink in the room; it was dirty and there were neither soap nor towels. An employee was observed to wash his hands and to wipe them on a piece of paper picked up from the floor. It was impossible to determine the finish of the ceiling in this bakery on account of the covering of dirt

A bakery on First street, located on the first floor was inspected. The bake room is back of the store. The walls which were once whitewashed were very dirty and the room is so dark that it is necessary to use gas. The ventilation is from two windows which were down from the top. Flour was piled in sacks on the dirty floor. Cake dough was being mixed and moulded by hand. The two proof bins were covered inside with flour and dough and appeared not to have been scrubbed recently. This was true also of the tables and other fixtures and utensils. The employees wore dirty aprons. The sink and the single towel were dirty

The next bakery visited was on Washington street in a basement. The entrance to the bakery is down a dark flight of steps and along a filthy passageway littered with boxes, barrels of bread scraps and several pans of stale dough. Light and ventilation are obtained from two windows in the rear of the building. Artificial light is necessary during the day. The windows were closed and the air was stale. The floor, walls and ceiling were very dirty, the whitewash of the ceiling coming off in large flakes. The fixtures were coated with dough and flour. The flour was stored in sacks piled on the floor. An open keg of butter and one of jelly were on the floor. Next to the jelly keg was a keg into which egg shells were being thrown, some of the egg shells finding their way into the jelly. The salt was exposed in an empty barrel and contained dirt. The employees wore filthy aprons and were mixing dough by hand. A large flat pan of uncooked cakes was on the floor. There are two sinks, but neither soap nor towels were in evidence

Restaurants

An oyster house on Newark street was first inspected. The tables were clean, no linen was supplied, paper napkins being used. The ice box was clean and contained ample ice and some meat which had a fresh appearance. The oysters were piled in the front window, but there was no ice on the pile. At the sink were soap and two clean towels. Passing this place a number of times later, ice was always to be seen on the oysters

The next restaurant examined is on Hudson street. The floor had not been properly swept. The tables were covered

with oilcloth, badly worn in placs and the condiment bottles and dishes did not appear clean. Back of the dining room is a pantry where bread, rolls, cakes and a large number of side dishes containing rice were freely exposed. A man was sweeping in this pantry and raising a quantity of dust. Back of this pantry is the kitchen, the floor, walls and windows of which were very dirty. The tables, utensils and implements also were dirty. The ice box is old and dilapidated, but fairly clean, and contained ample ice. The sinks were not clean and only one towel was seen. The cooks had an unkempt appearance and wore very dirty aprons

Another restaurant inspected is on Fourteenth street. In the restaurant proper the walls, floors, tables and other fixtures were clean. The kitchen floor is partly brick and partly wood and was damp and dirty, being littered with feathers, scraps of food and other rubbish. The kitchen tables were likewise filthy, containing food scraps and feathers. Some uncooked meat on one of the tables had feathers adhering to it. The utensils were very dirty. The dishes were being washed by placing them in a dirty sink and allowing the water to flow over them. Not a towel was in sight. Back of the kitchen is a storeroom containing boxes, barrels and loose rubbish and did not appear to have been cleaned for a long time. The ice box in this room was very dirty. It contained some pieces of meat which appeared to be old. A door from the kitchen leads to an area where garbage was being thrown on the ground in the snow, and in boxes and barrels until there was a large accumulation

The next restaurant visited is on Newark street. The floor and walls were dirty and the tables covered with worn and soiled oilcloth. The kitchen is in the basement and is reached by going down an outside stairway into an area and through a very narrow door which has to be entered by turning the body sideways. The kitchen is absolutely dark and is without means of ventilation except when the door is open. The place is lighted by gas. The floor is of brick and wood and was damp and filthy. The fixtures, sink and utensils were unclean and no towels were in evidence. The ice box is in a cubicle just off the kitchen, likewise perfectly dark, the ice box being dirty. The cooking force appeared very untidy in badly soiled aprons. Meat, bread and butter were freely exposed in the kitchen. The coal bin, into which the coal was thrown through a chute in the sidewalk communicated directly with the kitchen

Candy Factories

The first candy factory inspected is in a two story brick building and employs about one hundred persons. The building has good natural lighting and ventilation and city water and sewer connections. The water closet is on the first floor

and has separate accommodations for men and women. Two of the wooden seats were broken and the seats and bowls of all commodes contained fecal matter. The floors and walls were filthy. No toilet paper was furnished. There is one iron sink on each floor both containing solid masses of filth and neither soap nor towels were to be seen. Most of the work is done by hand. The chocolate cakes are removed from barrels and brushed, the mass is mixed, the cooked product removed and packed, all by hand. The employees wore no aprons and their clothing was spotted and smeared. The walls of the building had been whitewashed but were coated with dirt and cobwebs. The floor was thickly coated with a brown crust. Supplies were exposed in uncovered barrels and candy in large quantities was left uncovered on the tables. The machines, tables, utensils and tools were crusted with candy mass

Another candy factory was visited. The building was a dilapidated three story brick structure having city water connection. The sewerage outlet is on the south side of the building through a four inch outlet pipe extending seven feet from the building where it discharges its contents on the ground near a pool. At the outlet was a large accumulation of fecal matter and paper and a bad odor was evident. The building is lighted and ventilated by windows along three sides. The stairways, however, are so dark that it is necessary to use artificial light during the day. There is one water closet on each floor, that on the top floor being reserved for women. That on the first floor was very filthy, there being fecal matter on the seat and floor. In the others the floors, walls and bowls of the commodes were dirty. There is one sink on each floor but no towels were supplied and soap at only one sink. One floor was thickly coated with a dark crust. The manager stated that the floor was cleaned periodically by scraping. The walls and ceilings have been whitewashed but are now dirty and contain cobwebs. Kettles and other utensils and tools were thickly coated with chocolate. Uncovered barrels of sugar, chocolate and shelled nuts were entirely exposed. The machinery and fixtures were chocolate smeared. The manager stated that he had rented a building in a nearby city and was soon to leave Hoboken on account of the bad condition of the sewerage

Food Exposed on the Streets

Dates, grapes and other fruits were exposed on the sidewalk at a fruit stand on Monroe street and the sidewalk nearby was being swept

A boy was seen sweeping dirt directly on vegetables and fruits in front of a stand in another portion of this street

At a vegetable stand on Third street celery and lettuce were among the variety of products displayed uncovered and just

across the street was a large stock of vegetables on and near the sidewalk

A fish market on First street exposed for sale a quantity of whole and cut fish and shellfish on the sidewalk

Near the corner of Fifth and Adams streets are several vegetable markets having their wares unprotected from dust and ten push carts were seen guilty of the same offence. Two other carts were loaded with fish, likewise exposed. Near this corner is a sea food store below the sidewalk with a large proportion of its stock on and below the sidewalk. A baker's booth here displayed uncovered bread, cakes, pretzels, etc.

In front of a meat market on Fifth street were hanging six cuts of meat

In another part of this street were seen fish and shellfish in tubs and boxes on the sidewalk in front of a sea food establishment

In front of a market on Madison street celery, lettuce and other vegetables were arranged on low benches on the sidewalk

Three large pieces of meat were seen hanging in front of a market on Willow avenue

A man was seen sweeping within ten feet of and toward a bank of vegetables in front of a store on Washington street

In the D., L. & W. Ferry station a large quantity of candy is constantly exposed

Comments

There is no milk or meat produced in Hoboken. The city is therefore at the mercy of her neighbors. Unfortunate possibilities under such circumstances are great

The importance of expert milk inspection is especially vital

There is hardly any variety of food which is not freely exposed in Hoboken

There seems to be no effort to prevent this widespread exposure of food products

Milk depots were inspected which were unfit for the handling of this vitally important food

Bakeries and restaurants were visited which were wholly unsuitable places in which to prepare food for human consumption

D—Child Hygiene

The Hoboken milk depot, privately endowed, was opened in 1910. It has dispensed milk to babies during the past three summers. The records of the depot could not be obtained

Two nurses were employed by the city during the past summer, an appropriation of five hundred dollars having been made for this purpose. It was the duty of these nurses to visit the babies who might need their services. The records of these nurses could not be located

There is absolutely no supervision of midwives after they are licensed by the state and register in the clerk's office. Neither are their equipment and surroundings inspected nor are cases of still-births and other obstetric complications occurring in their practice investigated

Permission could not be obtained to investigate the system of school medical inspection, this activity being entirely under the supervision of the board of education. The investigator was informed that cases of contagious diseases are reported by the health department to the education department and vice versa. This is apparently the only point of contact

E—Tenement Houses

The first tenement house inspected was a four story frame building on Adams street. There are no fire escapes provided for this building. The court in the rear is partly paved and partly planked and is littered with ashes, household garbage and paper. It contains frame woodsheds, watercloset and chicken house. The water closet is divided into four rooms, the floors and seats being very dirty. The pool beneath was full to within two feet of the ground level. The corridors of the house are seven feet wide, the stairways two feet seven inches. The corridors are very dark, that on the second floor almost totally so. An apartment in the rear of the third floor consists of three rooms, two of which look upon the court yard, the other an inside room. The living room is twelve feet four inches by fifteen feet and is eight feet six inches to the ceiling. The two windows opening upon the rear court afford a glass area a little more than twenty-three feet. There is a sink and a set tub in this room as well as a flue connection for the stove. This room is lighted by gas. One of the small bedrooms, seven feet by seven feet two inches has a window looking into the rear court and affording a light area of eleven and a half square feet. The other bedroom is seven feet by seven feet six inches and has no outside window or door. The door connecting this room with the living room has six panes of glass having an area of five and a half square feet. Neither small room is provided with gas or electricity. The house has neither heating system nor bathing facilities. The apartments rent for eight dollars a month.

A three story frame building on Jackson street was inspected. This building has no fire escape. The court is not paved. The toilet, of six stalls, is located within fifteen feet of the house. There was fecal matter on the seats and floors in the toilet and the walls were filthy. The cesspool was filled to within about two feet of the court level. The corridors of the building are five feet ten inches wide and the stairway two feet six inches. There are two apartments on

each floor. The front apartment on the second floor consists of one living room and two small bedrooms. The living room, twelve feet six inches square with eight feet ten inches ceiling, has two windows looking into the street, with glass area of twenty-five and two-thirds square feet. This room contains a set tub and sink, and is supplied with gas. The front bedroom is eight feet by eight feet four inches and has a window with a glass area of twelve and a half square feet. The inside bedroom is eight feet by eight feet four inches and has no outside door nor window, but a window opening into the ill-lighted hall has a glass area of two and two-thirds square feet. Five persons, including three children, live in this apartment. They have no bathing facilities

The rear apartment on the second floor consists also of a living room and two small bedrooms. The living room is twelve feet four inches by fifteen feet, the ceiling eight feet ten inches. The two windows in this room afford a glass area of nearly twenty-five feet. One of the bedrooms is eight by nine feet and has a window opening into the rear court with glass surface of twelve and a half square feet. The other bedroom which is eight feet one inch by seven feet ten inches has no window whatever and gets its light and ventilation through the door from the living room. There are seven in the family occupying this apartment. They use coal oil lamp for light. The rent is eight dollars per month

A four story frame building on Willow avenue was next visited. This building is provided with fire escapes and has city sewer and water connections and gas supply. The halls and stairs are very dark. The halls are six feet wide and the stairs two feet six inches. There are four apartments on each of the upper three floors and two stores on the first. A front apartment on the third floor consists of a living room and two small bedrooms. The living room, fourteen by fifteen feet, has two windows overlooking the street with glass surface of twenty-five square feet. This room is provided with a sink and two set tubs. The small rooms are each seven by seven feet six inches. One has only one window and it looking into the hall, and having a glass area of two and two-ninths square feet. The other room has a window looking into a side area and having a surface of four square feet. The water closet serves for this and the adjacent apartment. The plumbing seemed to be in good condition and the water closet well kept. Eight people live in this apartment and have only two beds. The mother stated that she is in bad health, has a bad cough and is losing flesh. A little girl was found to have adenoids

A rear apartment on the same floor consisted of a living room and two small bedrooms. The living room is eleven and a half by thirteen and a half feet, and the ceiling eight

and a half feet. The two windows opening into the rear court have a glass area of twenty-three and one-tenth square feet. One of the bedrooms is seven by seven and a half feet and has a window of three square feet of surface opening into an area. The other bedroom is seven feet six inches by six feet eight inches and has no outside window but there is one opening into the living room and another into the hall, the combined glass surface being less than ten feet. The water closet here served also for the adjacent one.

Comments

The state laws give local boards considerable authority over the sanitation of tenements

There is ample evidence that the board of health is not making the best of its authority

Five apartments inspected had each an inside bedroom having absolutely no outside lighting or ventilation

F—Communicable Diseases

Contagious and communicable diseases are under the supervision of the health warden

The law requires the reporting by physicians of the following diseases: smallpox, diphtheria, membranous croup, Asiatic cholera, scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, ship or typhus fever, typhoid, yellow, spotted and relapsing fever, trichinosis, enteric, malaria, tuberculosis, trachoma, hydrophobia, glanders, anthrax, chicken pox, anterior poliomyelitis and infantile paralysis

These diseases are reported on post cards to the clerk and registrar of the board of health. The record of contagious diseases is in charge of the assistant health inspector, who records each case in the record book and makes a separate copy on a card which cards are sent weekly to the secretary of the state board of health. He retains the fee of ten cents for each case reported promptly

Upon the report of a case of contagious disease it is the duty of the health warden to visit the case. If the diagnosis is confirmed he prescribes quarantine regulations and notifies the assistant health inspector who placards the house. All the reportable diseases are placarded excepting whooping cough, chicken pox, measles and tuberculosis

The duration of quarantine established is for scarlet fever and smallpox six weeks, diphtheria and measles three weeks, whooping cough indefinite. The duration in other diseases is decided in each case by the health warden

Upon the report of a case of contagious diseases each school is notified

Upon the termination of a case the assistant health inspector removes the placard, notifies the schools and in certain cases fumigates the premises. All cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and smallpox are to be fumigated, other cases only on request

The record of contagious diseases may be tabulated for 1912 as follows:

The number of deaths in 1912 from contagious diseases is compared to the number of cases reported below:

	Cases	Deaths	Case Mortality %
Diphtheria	186	15	8.0
Tuberculosis	277	143	51.6
Chicken pox	56	0	0.
Typhoid fever	36	5	13.8
Scarlet fever	64	0	0.
Whooping cough	15	1	6.6
Measles	72	2	2.7
Mumps	43	0	0.

The record fails to show that the following number of cases were fumigated: Measles, 66; whooping cough, 14; chicken pox, 38; mumps, 40; scarlet fever, 5; and diphtheria, 9. Deducting the 2 cases of scarlet fever reported six weeks prior to the investigation would leave 3 cases, and 6 cases of diphtheria during the preceding three weeks would leave 3 cases which should have been fumigated and were not. It has not been the custom to fumigate cases of measles, mumps and whooping cough except upon request of the attending physician

During 1912, 277 cases of tuberculosis were reported and 143 deaths. The record shows fumigation in only 55 cases

The death record shows two deaths from measles which were not shown on the record of contagious disease

The only dispensary in Hoboken for the treatment of tuberculosis is a branch of the Hudson County Tuberculosis Hospital and Sanitorium. This branch was started September 23, 1912, and up to January 14, 1913, 133 patients had been examined of whom 64 had tuberculosis. There is one nurse in charge. Three doctors give their services gratis, each one on two days of each week from 3 to 4 p.m. The laboratory is at Laurel Hill, all sputa being sent there daily for examination. Only those presenting themselves at the clinic can have the advantages of the laboratory. Only outdoor cases are treated, others being visited in their homes or sent to Laurel Hill. Only cough medicine, a tonic and an antiseptic mouth wash are furnished the patients. Certain charitable organizations cooperate by furnishing milk, eggs and clothing. The nurse is at the clinic from 2 to 4 p.m. Her mornings are spent in making visits to the homes of patients. The premises are kept scrupulously clean. The clinic is not well advertised and does not obtain the proper cooperation of the majority of the local physicians

Comments

The absence of an index for the record of contagious diseases makes it difficult to keep track of the reporting of con-

tagious diseases, especially, on account of its chronicity, of tuberculosis

It makes it difficult also to check back from the death record reports of deaths of contagious diseases

It makes it difficult to supervise the timely fumigation and release of cases of contagious diseases

As shown above quite a number of cases of contagious diseases were not fumigated at all

The law requires that physicians, owners, lessees and occupants notify the health officer upon removal of a patient with tuberculosis. This law is not enforced

The law requires fumigation after death or removal of a case of tuberculosis. During 1912 there were reported 277 cases and 143 deaths while the records show only 55 fumigations

Cases of measles, whooping cough, chicken pox and mumps are not fumigated except by special request

The tuberculosis clinic does not receive from the majority of the local physicians the proper support

Comparing the number of deaths from tuberculosis with the number of cases it seems probable that at least one-third of the cases were not reported

The mortality from diphtheria as shown by the records of Hoboken is the average for the United States

No systematic effort is made to locate the source of contagion

There are no pin maps or other devices for showing the location and progress of epidemics

G—Hospitals and Laboratories

The only hospital facilities enjoyed by Hoboken are those afforded by St. Mary's Hospital, under the charge of the Sisters of the Poor of St. Francis. The city makes an annual appropriation to the hospital which is under contract to give the ambulance and charity service to the city. The appropriation last year was $30,000, the largest sum ever appropriated. Twenty-nine and eight-tenths per cent of the persons dying in Hoboken during 1913 were cared for by St. Mary's Hospital. An auto-ambulance and a horse ambulance are operated. Some revenue is derived from pay wards, from the church and from bequests

There were treated in 1911, 3,194 cases and in 1912, 3,455 cases. This does not include the large number of minor surgical cases treated in the surgical dispensary, over ten thousand in 1911. There is no other dispensary connected with the hospital. Neither religious belief, social condition nor nationality is a bar to the charity of the hospital. The capacity of the hospital is 420; the average daily census from 325

to 350. The visiting staff varies from 25 to 30, the number of internes five, and the sisters serving as nurses from 25 to 30

Cases of contagious diseases are received into the contagious disease wards in a separate building. It has been the custom to receive cases of tuberculosis, 126 cases having been received in 1911, but these cases are now sent to the Hudson County Tuberculosis Hospital at Laurel Hill

Obstetric cases, venereal diseases, smallpox, mental and chronic cases are not received by agreement in the legal contract

The building is a four story with basement structure of brick, supplied with steam heat, gas and electricity. The floors of the corridors on the first and basement floors are tiled, on the other floors are of hardwood with linoleum runners. The stairways are fireproof. The main doors open in and there is a fire escape for one wing. The building is scrupulously clean throughout

The laboratory of the hospital lacks some of the apparatus necessary but this is being supplied as rapidly as financial circumstances permit. It is conducted by the junior interne and for the use of the hospital only

Comments

Hoboken has no local laboratory facilities excepting for the patients cared for at St. Mary's Hospital and at the Hudson County Tuberculosis Clinic

There is no public laboratory in the city to which the health warden or private physicians may send specimens for examinations, so important especially in the diagnosis of diphtheria and tuberculosis

H—Water Supply

Hoboken's water is supplied by the Hackensack Water Company. This water is obtained from the Hackensack River at New Milford, and is here filtered through sand. A chemist is employed who makes weekly examinations of the water at each of the distributing points. The water for Hoboken is pumped into two reservoirs, both in Weehawken, at elevations of 160 and 180 feet above Hoboken. These reservoirs are connected with the New Milford pumping station by three conduits, twenty, twenty-four and thirty-six inches in diameter. Hoboken gets the water by gravity through three mains, twelve, sixteen and twenty-four inches in diameter, entering the city on the north at Willow avenue and at Park avenue. The capacity of these mains is 12,000,000 gallons daily. The present consumption is from 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 gallons daily. Nearly all the water for Hoboken is supplied by the reservoir in the southern part of Weehawken. This reservoir covers an area of four blocks. It is surrounded by a six foot iron fence with spike palings, inside of which is a thick hedge

from eight to twelve feet high. The three gates to the enclosure are kept locked. At the southeast corner a house is built along the fence line though there are no windows on the reservoir side. The pool is said by the superintendent to be 60 feet deep. According to the same authority it is lined with first, a layer of cement six inches thick, and finally with stone blocks from six to eight inches thick. There was no evidence of any growth of vegetation between the stones. The pool in the northern portion of Weehawken is similar in construction but lined with bricks instead of stone blocks. The water was perfectly clear and not a particle was to be seen floating on its surface. The caretaker lives near the reservoir and seems to take an interest in his work

There is no other source of drinking water in Hoboken

Comments

A vitiated water supply would prove very disastrous to Hoboken owing to the condition of the sewerage system

The water supplied to the city is pleasant and palatable and seems to be safe

I—Sewerage

Hoboken was formerly an island separated from the heights by marshes communicating with the river above and below the city. Most of this marsh has gradually been filled until the area now inundated lies along the western limits of the city from Seventeenth street to Second street extending as far east as Park avenue at Fifteenth, Grand at Thirteenth, Twelfth, Eleventh and Ninth, Adams at Eighth, Jefferson at Seventh and from Sixth to Second is a strip along the railroad varying in width up to a block or more. About half the city is subject to flooding during rainstorms being uniformly flat excepting a slight elevation on the river front between Eighth and Tenth streets

Owing to the state of the soil the streets have settled so that their present grades are from one to twenty-seven inches below the established grades. As a consequence, the sewers which were not built upon piles have settled so that in some cases their grade is opposite to that established

Seventy-one per cent. of the city has been sewered. The system is of the combined plan, caring for surface water as well as for household and manufacturing waste

The discharge of the system is into the Hudson River through numerous outfalls and into the canal within the corporation of Jersey City. All these outlets are tideblocked, discharging their contents below the hightide line. To overcome reverse currents in the mains tide gates have been installed in four locations

The portion of the city most unsanitary on account of the absence of sewerage facilities is the western portion of the

fifth ward, in the northwestern part of the city. Here are at least sixteen factories and other plants discharging sewage on the meadows either directly or through a makeshift of a cesspool.

At a paper box factory employing about 275 persons the manager stated that in summer the odor from the cesspools and garbage dumps in the neighborhood was very bad and that the flies and mosquitoes were terrible. Frequently, he said, persons refused to work for him on account of the unsanitary conditions. The "cesspool," which is used in common with a factory across the street, consists of a plank pen with walls projecting above the surface of the ground. The cracks in the plank cover admitted the observation of semi-solid sludge within two feet of the top. The odor was very offensive

The ribbon mill nearby employs a force between two and three hundred. A portion of the sewage of this building is discharged into the cesspool above described. The rest in common with that from the adjoining factory is piped to an open pool about 30 yards away and within fifteen feet of the north gate of the Hudson County Park. The park keeper said that this created a terrific nuisance in the summer. The superintendent of the ribbon mill stated that the enormous number of flies were both disagreeable and detrimental to his business and that the odor from the sewage and from the garbage dumps in the neighborhood was very offensive

The rattan factory employs from 35 to 40 men. The city garbage is dumped on the west side to within ten feet of the building. On the dump was seen a quantity of fresh and decayed vegetable and other food scraps emitting a very offensive odor. The outfall pipe leaves the west side of the building and discharges within 12 feet into an open barrel. This barrel is resting in the water which surrounds the west and south sides of the building. This system is shortly to be abandoned for another now being constructed—a wooden pen similar to that in use at the paper box factory. The superintendent stated that the odors, flies and mosquitoes were frightful, that the conditions made it impossible to keep the better class of labor, and that, in his opinion, would have the tendency not only of keeping out new industries but driving out existing ones

The ice factory conducts a cold storage plant in addition to manufacturing ice. The sewage outfall leaves the west side of the building and discharges into a pool a few feet away. A dam is built nearby the entire length of the plant to keep this water from flowing under the building. The manager says that the rain water coming off the hill frequently causes this water to rise from 18 to 24 inches. He stated that the odor from the garbage dump is bad, and that the flies become

so bad during the season that they are burned at the window with lighted paper

The water closet of a three story frame tenement house on Grand street was inspected. It is divided into six stalls, the floor and seats of which were clean and is without flush tanks. The cesspool is of brick and is filled with semi-solid matter to within three feet of the court level. The owner of the building claims that it is connected with the sewer and that the surface water and water from the court hydrant keep the contents washed into the sewer. The appearance indicated that this had not occurred for some time

The sewerage conditions of other tenement houses and of a candy factory are outlined elsewhere

Comments

It is a pity that in addition to her own sewerage problems, Hoboken has to put up with the discharge from the outlets from the heights on the west

Hoboken's sewer system is totally inadequate in both condition and extent

The needs are so apparent and the matter has been so thoroughly investigated and reported on by experts that there is no further need to call attention to its defects

J—Street Cleaning

Thick cakes of dried mud and layers of dust were to be seen in a number of places along Washington street from Newark to Fourteenth streets. The street was littered with paper, pasteboard boxes, portions of wooden boxes and barrels, fruit skins, horse droppings, food scraps and ashes. Clouds of dust were raised by winds and passing vehicles

There was evidence of much spitting upon the sidewalks

The sidewalks were littered with ashes, paper and rubbish of various kinds

Between Third and Fourth streets there was a large broken crack half filled with grease in the gutter and nearby almost an entire loaf of bread

A large quantity of sand between Sixth and Seventh streets was being scattered by passing vehicles there being no retaining boards

In front of a store a quantity of water had been poured on the sidewalk causing quite a pool in the gutter. The same condition was observed in front of a **"Sanitary"** barber shop, and in front of another store between Seventh and Eighth streets. On this block was thrown a quantity of banana peels and paper and some loose wire

Between Eighth and Ninth streets paper which had been thrown into the streets was being widely scattered by every breeze

About a quart of pretzels and a large quantity of paper and other rubbish and portions of box tops were thrown into the street and on the sidewalk between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets

In front of a house on Newark street near Clinton there were three refuse barrels and five pans and buckets full of refuse and the sidewalk all around was littered with the overflow from these containers. On this same street near Willow was an old shoe, a wooden box and a quantity of paper and rags. A stable on Newark street had placed piles of unclean bedding straw on the sidewalk in front of the place

On the corner of First and Clinton streets where a new building was being constructed, sand and gravel were being scattered widely in the street, no retaining board being used to prevent waste. Between First and Second on Clinton was a large ash pile on the sidewalk which had the appearance of having been there some time. This street between Newark and First was coated with dried mud and dust and profusely littered with paper, rags and other rubbish

Tin cans, old shoes, wire, ashes, boxes, paper, an old hat, a pile of straw and manure, broken bottles and three goats were observed in the street and on the sidewalk on Adams between Seventh and Eighth streets

On Jefferson street between First and Second a man and two boys were burning a bundle of bed clothes and a mattress in the street

A dead cat and a pair of old shoes were lying in Third street between Jackson and Monroe. They were found undisturbed sixteen days later

In Court street, an alley between Hudson and Washington streets, contained most of the forms of street nuisance. Several stables make a manure dumping ground of this alley. Garbage cans were filled to overflowing and surrounded by garbage. Large quantities of paper, brickbats, tin, glass, ashes, food waste, slop matter, wire and a suit of clothes were noted. Stains on the walls and an odor of urine were perceptible and four piles of human feces were seen .

A man was seen to urinate in the middle of the street near the corner of Ferry and Park avenue and the same act was observed on the approach to the ferry within fifty yards of the D., L. & W. station both during the noon hour

Human feces appeared on the sidewalks, also on Madison between First and Second, on First west of Washington, and on Seventh street opposite school No. 8

No public refuse receptacles were seen on Washington street between Newark and Fourteenth

Only two covered refuse cans were observed during the entire survey

On Newark street near Grand a garbage collector left on the sidewalk nearly a barrel of refuse in loading four barrels. Two men were watched while loading a wagon. In picking up three overfilled cans a quantity fell out of each. This with what had been thrown on the ground after the cans had been filled, made almost a barrelful which the collectors made no effort to gather

On two occasions overloaded manure wagons were seen shaking their contents into the street (Washington) on crossing rough places. One of these wagons had no end gate

Wooden refuse receptacles containing both garbage and ashes were noted on Washington street between Fifth and Sixth, Seventh and Eighth, Ninth and Tenth, and between Eleventh and Twelfth streets; also on Newark near Clinton and at Market and First. Six wooden ash barrels were noted in Court street and a like number on Clinton street between Second and Third and on this street between Third and Fourth sixteen were counted. On one side of a single block on Seventh street west of Willow, fifteen wooden receptacles had been placed on the sidewalk

The refuse of the city including household garbage, ashes and street sweepings, is dumped in vacant lots and lowlands along the western border of the city. This area comprises the district from Thirteenth street down to Second street excepting one and a half blocks between Seventh and Ninth and extends as far east as Adams street in places, as at Eighth and Thirteenth streets

On these dumps the scavengers were busily engaged in digging various materials, especially rags, from the filth. Twelve were counted on the dump at the corner of Twelfth and Jefferson streets. Two little girls came away each with a quantity of cinders gathered on the dump which they said were to serve as fuel. The dumping near the U. S. Rattan Co. is carried on to within ten feet of the building

In Hudson Square a few bits of paper, cigar and cigarette stumps and promiscuous spitting detracted from the general appearance. There was only one rubbish can in the square and there were no signs prohibiting spitting. The drinking fount is of double pattern, the faucets turned upward and a bowl under each faucet and a grating in the pavement to catch the overflow. The public comfort station here on the men's side had the three windows closed and the air was close though not offensive. The floor was damp and muddy. The urinal is an upright wall of slate, without division into stalls, having constant flushing. The three stalls containing the commodes have no odors. There was fecal matter on the tops of two of the commodes, all of three bowls were dirty and no toilet paper was furnished

The grounds in Church Square were well cared for though there was evidence of spitting on the walks. There were no notices prohibiting the littering of the grounds or spitting on the walks. The drinking fount is similar to that in Hudson Square. Only one accessible refuse can could be seen though two were noted within an enclosure. The comfort station here is of the same design as that in Hudson Square. The floor was clean and there were no odors. No toilet paper was furnished

In Hudson County Park the grounds were well kept. There were no notices prohibiting spitting or littering of the premises. There are four sanitary drinking fountains in this park and four refuse cans were supplied. The floors, walls and seats in the pavilion were clean. The bath house has stalls for showers, for dressing rooms and lockers and a swimming pool adjoining. Drainage sinks in the floors admit of thorough flushing. The individual lockers are of metal and well ventilated. The water supply is from a well 560 feet deep which rises to within 150 feet of the surface and is forced through the system by compressed air. The floors, walls and fixtures of this bath house are kept clean. The men's toilet has steam heat and is provided with ventilators in the floor and near the ceiling. The plumbing fixtures were clean. There are no doors to the commode stalls and no toilet paper was to be seen. The sewer outlet of a large manufacturing plant discharges its contents within a few feet of the north boundary of this park

On account of the grading and filling being conducted in Elysian Park an inspection was not made

Comments

Information in regard to the street cleaning methods was not procured

The condition of repair of the streets of Hoboken makes necessary for their proper care highly efficient methods

Refuse cans are insufficient in number

Very few refuse cans were equipped with covers

Refuse cans are not emptied sufficiently often

The street refuse is not properly collected

Overloaded and leaky wagons are allowed to jolt their contents into the street

Inefficiency of the sewers is largely attributable to clogging of the catch basins

Cooperation of the public in keeping the streets clean by providing sufficient public refuse receptacles and by signs prohibiting the littering of publc places is not attempted

The garbage dumping problem is difficult as the city is surrounded by corporations and has no isolated locality within its own limits

K—Publicity

The only attempt at publicity discovered in the survey of Hoboken's health field was the distribution of a little folder to those applying for treatment at the Hudson County Tuberculosis Dispensary. This is printed in English, none being available for their patients who do not read English

There is no fund authorizing the health warden or the clerk of the bureau of vital statistics to make any effort to inform the public on these matters of vital interest

L—Vital Statistics

The bureau of vital statistics is in charge of the clerk and registrar. The following records are kept: Vital statistics record, record of deaths, record of births, record of marriages, of dog licenses, quarantine permits, milk permits, swill licenses, fat and bone licenses, scavenger licenses, barbers' licenses, lodging house permits, record of complaints and a registry of midwives and physicians

The death, birth, marriage and complaint records are kept in large bound volumes. The permits are issued from stub books, the stub serving as the record

The data in the record of deaths is obtained from the death certificates of the attending physician and undertaker. The death certificate is exchanged by the undertaker for a burial permit

The death certificates are entered on the death record book and are sent by the clerk to the state registrar of the bureau of vital statistics at Trenton on or before the tenth of each month. His fee is at the rate of twenty cents for each certificate for entering on the record, compiling monthly summary, and forwarding same to the state registrar before the tenth

The record of deaths is neatly kept

The death certificates are permitted to accumulate until shortly before the day to be sent to the state board of health and then recorded. The record shows when the entries are made. The number of days or parts of days necessary to post the deaths in 1912 was sixteen

Still births are recorded in the death record but are not included in the mortality statistics

The death rate is based on a population of 75,000

Deaths in St. Mary's Hospital are so indicated

The record of deaths is indexed

Some of the causes of death given are "convulsions," natural causes," "organic difficulty," "exhaustion," "infantile eclampsia," "gastro-intestinal irritation," "heart failure," "toxemia," "cardiac paralysis," "senility," "pulmonary hemorrhage," etc

Table I on the page following shows the deaths by months for 1912, the number of still births, the number dying of contagious diseases and those under five years of age

The number of deaths in St. Mary's Hospital as obtained from the death record of that institution is as follows:

January	21	July	38
February ..	26	August	21
March	32	September .	29
April	31	October	27
May	29	November .	18
June	31	December ..	33

Total.....336

The deaths for the past three months were classified according to the undertakers who conducted the funerals. From only three of the six undertakers interviewed could corresponding information be obtained. According to the record of deaths these three buried 127 persons during these three months. The number buried as obtained from each undertaker corresponded to the number each month as shown by the record of deaths

In the following Table II are compared the death rates of Hoboken and of Hudson County. The Hudson County rates are calculated from the 1911 report of the county board of health

The record of births contains the data obtained from the birth certificate filled out by the attending physician or midwife

These certificates are entered on the birth record book by the registrar and sent to the state registrar of vital statistics at Trenton, for which he receives twenty cents if sent on or before the tenth of the succeeding month

The record shows that entries were made in the birth records of 1912 on twelve days

TABLE I

	Hoboken 1912	Hudson County 1911	New York City 1909 Report
Death Rate per 1,000	15.5	15.5	16.21
Deaths under 5 years	3.4	4.7	5.3
Still births per 10,000	14.2	12.0	14.7
Deaths from Tuberculosis per 10,000	20.4 (all forms)	19.2	18.9
" " Measles " "	.27	.95	2.2
" " Whooping Cough "	.13	1.0	.8
" " Typhoid Fever "	.68	.72	1.2
" " Diphtheria " "	2.0	2.1	3.8
" " Scarlet Fever " "	0.0	1.0	1.7
" " Cerebro Spinal Men per 10,000	.96	.73	.40

TABLE II

1912	Total Number of Deaths	Deaths at St. Mary's Hospital	Still Births	Deaths Under 5 Years	Deaths from Tuberculosis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Typhoid Fever	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis
January	90	21	10	20	7	1	0	0	4	0	0
February	95	27	11	20	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	95	31	6	19	11	0	0	0	1	0	1
April	92	31	1	23	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	106	28	14	20	18	0	0	0	1	0	0
June	93	31	9	23	9	0	1	0	1	0	1
July	117	39	9	34	17	0	0	2	3	0	0
August	74	20	10	16	7	0	0	1	0	0	1
September	79	31	11	14	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
October	95	29	7	23	10	0	0	1	1	0	0
November	83	18	12	15	11	0	0	0	0	0	1
December	116	32	4	28	15	1	0	1	4	0	3
Total	1135	338	104	255	143	2	1	5	15	0	7

Births during 1912 are recorded as follows:

January	168	July	174
February	151	August	161
March	164	September ..	146
April	160	October	179
May	146	November ...	160
June	158	December ...	152

Total.....1,919

The birth rate of Hoboken may be compared with that of Hudson County as follows:

	1911	1912
Hoboken	27.2	26.3
Hudson County	21.2	21.6

The birth rate for New York City during 1909 was 26.94.

The above rate for Hudson County in 1912 is calculated from the first nine months of the year, the figures for the remaining three months not being available

The record of births is indexed and the entries are neatly made

The data contained in the record of marriages are obtained from certificate of marriage and the marriage license. These are sent to the clerk by the person officiating at the marriage. The clerk receives twenty cents for entering each legal marriage certificate on the marriage record book and summarizing same, if the ceremony is performed in Hoboken and he sends the summary to the state registrar of vital statistics on or

before the tenth of the succeeding month. One dollar is charged by the registrar for issuing the marriage license. There is also a deputy registrar who issues licenses in the absence of the registrar

Up to July, 1912, the record shows that eight days or parts of days were required to post the record for the first six months of the year

The record of marriages shows the following number of entries:

1911			
May	139	November	205
June	210	December	157
		1912	
July	162	January	175
August	171	February	217
September	204	March	129
October	216	April	168
Total	2,153		

The following tabulation shows the number of permits issued during the year May 1, 1911–May 1, 1912 and the fee charged for each:

	Number	Fee
Dog licenses	1,313	$2.00
Milk licenses	279	1.00
Barber licenses	119	2.00
Swill licenses	36	5.00
Fat and Bone licenses	17	5.00
Quarantine permits	342	1.25

Lodging houses are licensed at one dollar per bed. The stubs of the record were not dated. The fee for issuing a burial permit is twenty-five cents

The deputy registrar, a druggist, is authorized to issue burial permits when the office of the registrar is closed. The deputy registrar is allowed to retain ten cents of the twenty-five cents charged. There is no record of the burial permits issued, other than the death record. This does not show the number of burial permits issued by the deputy registrar

Scavenger permits at one dollar, scavenger licenses at ten dollars, hide storing licenses at fifteen dollars, hide tanning licenses at five dollars and plumbing permits at two dollars are issued. These records are kept in the cash book and on the stubs of the permit books

Access to the cash book of the clerk and registrar was refused without written order of the board of health but the following report was prepared by him. The health warden stated that his salary is nine hundred dollars which the clerk confirmed

This report does not show the fees obtained from marriage licenses nor from the state board of health for reporting deaths, births, marriages and contagious diseases, these being part of the compensation of the clerk

Salaries

Clerk	$900.00
Health warden	1,200.00
Asst. health inspector	1,200.00
Plumbing inspector	900.00
Pound keeper	750.00
Attorney	600.00
Dog census taker	375.00
Dog seizer	375.00
Nurses	500.00
Milk inspector	500.00
Health inspector	200.00
	$7,500.00

Printing minutes and stationery	$655.27
Disinfectants	388.90
Repairs at public pound	392.59
Society for the P. of C. to Animals	294.70
Miscellaneous	13.00
Indexing records of V. S	102.45
Supplies	134.28
Office light	72.45
Telephone service office and P. pound	112.85
Cleaning office and attending ice cooler	70.00
Vaccine	65.00
Repairing at office	54.30

Comments

Some of the causes of death given by the physicians on the death certificates and enumerated in the death record are not exact enough for vital statistics records

From comparison of the death rate by ages and diseases with that of nearby cities, by checking with the hospital records and with those of the undertakers it appears that there is no suppression of deaths and that the record is a true report

The record of marriages does not show where the license was issued

The records do not show the number of burial permits issued by the clerk nor the number issued by the deputy

III—RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended

1—That an all-time health officer be appointed to have immediate control over contagious diseases and have supervision of the clerk and inspectors

2—That qualifications of expertness be required of each member of the board of health and that at least two of the five members of the board should be physicians

3—That the clerk and registrar be placed on a salary basis

4—That the office of attorney of the board of health be abolished and his duties be transferred to the corporation counsel

5—That the health inspector be appointed by the board of health

6—That an active and vigorous health inspector be appointed by the board of health

7—That the sanitary code be revised and printed

8—That the board of health be rid of all outside political influences. The first sted to insure against such influence is to provide a salary for the health officer which will permit him to devote his entire time to the department

9—That frequent and accurate reports be required of all employees of the board of health

10—That the health inspectors assume a more aggressive attitude and not merely meet conditions as they arise

11—That the record of complaints be indexed

12—That the inspection of building plans for plumbing installation be placed on a job basis and that a competent plumber be appointed by the board to give full time service to inspect plumbing connections in buildings as required by law and to make other sanitary inspections of the plumbing of buildings and other places as directed by the health officer

13—That a competent inspector be given supervision of food products including milk supply and that the widespread exposure of food be discontinued

14—That records be required of the city nurses

15—That the sanitation of tenements be more carefully supervised

16—That all contagious diseases be placarded

17—That all cases including tuberculosis be disinfected or thoroughly cleaned

18—That the record of contagious diseases be indexed. (This might easily be accomplished by card indexing the original post card notices)

19—That the record of contagious diseases be regularly checked by the reports of deaths from contagious diseases

20—That charts and pin maps be kept to show the source, location and progress of contagious diseases

21—That more publicity be given to the tuberculosis clinic and that the local profession be invited to give it stronger support

22—That the law requiring the notification of removal of tubercular subjects be enforced

23—That anti-spitting laws be enforced and that sweeping on the sidewalks be not allowed when the streets are crowded

24—That proper laboratory facilities be provided for the examination of cultures and sputum. Negotiations to this end might be perfected with St. Mary's Hospital

25—That the board of health use its influence to have the sewerage system repaired and extended and that the department investigate reports to the mayor upon all unsanitary sewers

26—That the discharge of the sewers from the heights at the west end of Eighth street and Fifteenth street be stopped

27—That the board of health use its influence and authority to have filled the sunk lots which are a menace to health

28—That the board of health cooperate with the proper authorities to secure more efficient street cleaning service

29—That a garbage treatment plant be installed and the practice of dumping garbage in close proximity to human habitations be discontinued

30—That a campaign of publicity be instituted comprising courses of lectures, the use of the daily press and of bulletins

31—That the International List of Causes of Death be adopted

32—That midwives be systematically inspected

33—That no further money be allowed for the indexing of vital statistics

34—That the reports of officers be more carefully preserved

35—That an accurate system of keeping of records of all permits issued be adopted

36—That the records be made to show how many burial permits are issued by the clerk and how many by the deputy

37—That the records of births, marriages, deaths and contagious diseases show how many certificates were sent to the state board of health within the specified time for which fees are allowed

38—That the record of marriages show how many licenses the clerk issues and how many are issued elsewhere

39—That the recommendations covering reorganization have careful consideration before the next budget is passed June 1, 1914

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END OF
TITLE